



FOSTERING A DEMOCRATIC SCHOOL CULTURE IN MONTENEGRO

CONFERENCE

Competences for Democratic Culture in Education

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME

21 April 2017

***CentreVille* hotel, Podgorica, Montenegro**

Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



Implemented
by the Council of Europe

<http://horizontal-facility-eu.coe.int>

CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

“Fostering a democratic school culture” is a project under the European Union – Council of Europe programmatic framework “Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey” and is implemented by the Council of Europe Education Department in cooperation with the Council of Europe Programme Office in Podgorica. The duration of the action is set at 30 months and is being implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education while involving a wider group of relevant stakeholders, including the Bureau for Education Services, education policy and research institutes, selected pilot schools, local communities, media, NGOs, experts, academics, and other international organisations/donors in Montenegro.

The overall objective of the Project is to improve the quality of education by fostering a democratic culture in the formal education system through applying anti-discriminatory approaches based on Council of Europe standards and practices. The specific objectives are to (i) to enhance knowledge and awareness on the concept, policies, practices and benefits from inclusive education and a democratic school culture among teachers, staff, students and local communities and to (ii) enhance capacities of schools to remove prejudices and discriminatory approaches toward vulnerable or marginalised students, including Roma and Egyptian children.

Background

At its 25th session in April 2016, the Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education agreed the following:

To make the preparation for lifelong active democratic citizenship of all learners in education and training a hallmark of the quality of European education systems and an essential part of our response to the challenges Europe is facing;

To provide all learners in education and training with the necessary competences (values, attitudes, skills, knowledge and critical understanding) that will enable them to engage as active citizens in democratic and diverse societies and increase their chances of succeeding in their working lives;

To welcome the Council of Europe Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture and commit to contribute to achieving the abovementioned strategic objectives by taking a series of ACTIONS/ INITIATIVES.

Montenegro, as a part of the Council of Europe, committed to make its education system open to diversity and foster democratic culture in education. Considerable efforts have been made towards this aspiration. However, the issue still remains complex to address.

Objectives and approach

The objectives of this conference:

(1) to present Pilot schools – Inclusive school network and foster planning activities at the school level and

(2) to introduce competences for democratic school culture.

All participants at the conference will have the opportunity to share their experiences, achievements and awareness for inclusiveness and respect of diversity, and enhance their knowledge on democratic school culture. Consequently, they will formulate actions and steps that will help schools to move from the current state to the desired state or vision.

Practical arrangements of the conference

The conference will be organised on 21st April 2017 in *CentreVille* hotel in Podgorica, Montenegro. It will bring together around 80 participants from the Pilot schools, Ministry, Bureau for education services, NGOs, local and international experts, media and international organisations.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided to and from Montenegrin and English.

PROGRAMME

- 09:30 – 10:00** **REGISTRATION**
- 10:00 – 10:30** **OPENING REMARKS**
Andre LYS, Head of Cooperation Section, Delegation of the EU to Montenegro
Veljko TOMIC, General Director of the Directorate for General Secondary, Professional and Adult Education, Ministry for Education
Angela LONGO, Head of Operations in Council of Europe Programme Office in Podgorica
- 10:30 – 10:40** **PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT “FOSTERING A DEMOCRATIC SCHOOL CULTURE”**
Milos BOSKOVIC, Project Officer at the Council of Europe Programme Office in Podgorica
- 10:40 – 11:00** **INCLUSIVE SCHOOL NETWORK**
Tamara MILIC, Head of the Unit for Preschool and Inclusive Education, Ministry of Education
- 11:00 – 11:20** **COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:20 - 11:40** **REGIONAL/EU EXPERIENCE IN FOSTERING DEMOCRATIC SCHOOL CULTURE**
Nada JAKIR, former Head of the Department for the Education of Minorities and Students with Special Needs in the Ministry for Science, Education, and Sports of the Republic of Croatia
- 11:40 – 13:10** **COMPETENCES FOR DEMOCRATIC CULTURE**
Presentation with discussion in small groups
Olena STYSLAVSKA, Education for Democracy Foundation, Warsaw, Poland
- 13:10 – 14:40** **LUNCH**
- 14:40 – 14:50** **INTRODUCTION TO THE GROUP WORK**
Milos BOSKOVIC

- 14:50 – 16:00 GROUP WORK**
Development of Action plans for fostering democratic culture
in pilot schools
- 16:00 – 16:40 PRESENTATION OF ACTION PLANS**
- 16:40 – 17:00 DISCUSSION AND WRAP UP**